



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
NAPA BLUEGRASS
Poa Napensis



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered
Federal Register Notice 62:54791; DATE
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr3169.pdf
(149 KB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:
This species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in July 1979. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range)

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated

RECOVERY PLAN: None

5-YEAR REVIEW: Completed February 2010. No change recommended.
http://www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/docs/five_year_review/doc3218.pdf (183 KB)

DESCRIPTION:

Napa bluegrass is an erect, tufted perennial bunchgrass in the grass family (Poaceae). It grows to 1 dm (4 in) in height. Leaves are folded, stiffly erect, 1 mm (0.04 in) wide, with the basal leaves 20 cm (8 in) long and upper stem leaves to 15 cm (6 in) in length.

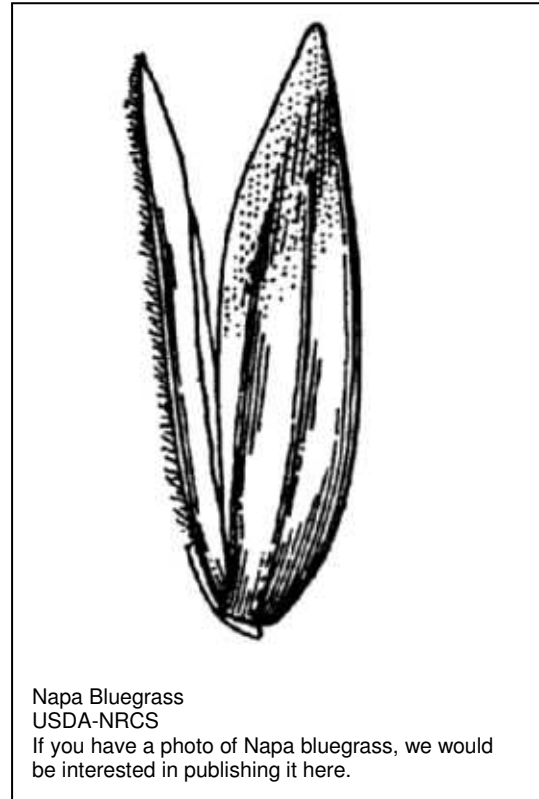
A few stiff, erect flowering stems appear in May and grow 7 dm (27 in) in height. Flower clusters occur as a pale green to purple, condensed, oblong-oval panicle 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 in) long and 2 to 5 cm (0.8 to 2.0 in) wide.

Poa napensis most closely resembles *P. unilateralis* (ocean bluff bluegrass), but differs in leaf and panicle form and habitat. See Hickman (1993) in General Information about California Plants, below, for detailed descriptions of these species.

DISTRIBUTION:

Napa bluegrass is found in grasslands and moist, alkaline meadows fed by hot springs. The elevation range of this plant is 100 to 120 m (340 to 400 ft) within a radius of 6 km (4 mi) of Calistoga. Two populations of Napa bluegrass are known to exist. Both extant populations are on private land. See 5-year review (above) for more information.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Calistoga (517D) 3812255.



THREATS:

Napa bluegrass is threatened by recreational activities, airport maintenance, urbanization, and random events. Historically, the range of this plant has been diminished by the development of recreational hot springs and the growth of the town of Calistoga. Alterations in the hydrology of the hot springs or geysers or overland flow would pose a threat to this plant. Such alterations would include, but not be limited to, new water well drilling into the underground water sources or increasing the draw-down from existing wells.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

General references about California plants

www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm

Hitchcock, A. S. 1971. *Manual of the Grasses of the United States*. 2nd ed. Dover Press. Soreng, R. J. 1991. Systematics of the "Epiles" Group of Poa (Poaceae). *Systematic Bot.* 16(3):507-528.

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Drawing Credit: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. *Manual of the grasses of the United States*. USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 200. Washington, DC.

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